GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:268
ANSWERED ON:03.02.2017
Infection Spread from Mobile Phones in Hospitals
Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scientists have warned that mobile phones spread infections in hospitals and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any survey about the number of persons who get infections in hospitals in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to keep patients free from infections in hospitals in the country?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a): Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that in a recent study conducted by Pal et al. in 2015, on 386 participants, it was found that 81.8% mobile phones and 80% hand swabs showed bacterial pathogen growth.

Directorate General of Health Services has informed that, there is risk of spread of infection by handling same mobile phone set by different people without taking proper precautions of hand hygiene.

(b): No.

(c): The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued guidelines, on "Hospital Infection Control" to reduce infections in hospitals in general. The said guidelines are available on the website of ICMR.
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